

# WØMTL – Mark Twain Land Area News – WØKEM

## DECEMBER, 2009

# AMATEUR RADIO

Merry Christmas  
Merry Christmas



### Legends of the Christmas Tree:

Many legends exist about the origin of the Christmas tree.

One legend story comes from Germany about spiders and Christmas trees. Long ago families allowed their animals to come inside and view the Christmas trees on Christmas Eve. Because the Christ Child was born in a stable, they felt that the animals should take part in the Christmas celebration. But spiders weren't allowed because housewives didn't want cobwebs all over everything. Of course the spiders were unhappy about this, so one year they complained to the Christ Child. He felt sorry for them and decided that late at night He would let them in to see the trees.

The excited spiders loved the Christmas trees and all night long they crawled about in the branches, leaving them covered with webs. On Christmas morning the housewives saw what the spiders had done. But instead of being angry, they were delighted. For in the night the Christ Child had turned all of the cobwebs into sparkling tinsel. And even today, tinsel is often used to decorate Christmas trees to add that same sparkle the Christ Child gave the cobwebs long ago, in Germany.

Of course, the early trees were decorated differently than today's evergreens. Early ornaments were usually hand-crafted or edible. Nuts, candies, fruits, and pieces of colored paper were the most common. The average modern tree is decorated with a combination of store-bought ornaments and family memorabilia with several strings of lights strewn over the branches instead of candles, but no matter how the tree is decorated it still symbolizes a timeless Christmas tradition of families gathered together exchanging gifts and love, and celebrating the birth of Christ.



**HARC OFFICERS**

**PRESIDENT:** HOWARD BARNES, KØDFW  
**V-PRES:** J.D. SINCLAIR, WØAJD  
**SECRETARY:** FRED MILLER, KBØWIL  
**TREASURER:** TONY GILLILAND, WØPGL  
**TRUSTEE:** CLIFF AHRENS, KØCA  
**EDITOR:** BONNIE SINCLAIR, WBØWAP

---

**HARC MONDAY NIGHT NET**  
**CALL LIST OF VOLUNTEER OPERATORS**  
**DECEMBER 2009**

7	KØDFW	HOWARD
14	WØPGL	TONY
21	KB9VIS	BRIAN
28	WØAJD	JD

THANKS TO ALL!

---

**Next Scheduled Meeting: Wednesday**  
**DECEMBER 9, at 7:30 PM**

**Note: February - Due to planned dinner there**  
**will be no club meeting in February!!!**

Regular Meetings are held at Beth Haven Nursing Home, 2500 Pleasant St., Hannibal, Mo. Enter at the main entrance; turn left through the lounge area to the elevator. Take the elevator down to the first floor, and go to your right/left around the corner, down the hall to the cafeteria.

**FCC VE TEST DATES FOR YEAR OF 2010**  
**Hannibal, MO ARC 2010 Exam Dates**

**January 13th, 2010, April 14th, 2010**

**July 14th, 2010, October 13th, 2010**

Exams will take place at 8:30 PM after the regular scheduled HARC meeting. The exam session will be at the Beth Haven Nursing Home, in the Cafeteria on the 1st (lower) Floor, 2500 Pleasant St., Hannibal, MO. Registration is required at least 72 hours before the exam session by contacting the team liaison, Fred Miller- KBØWIL at [kb0wil@arrl.net](mailto:kb0wil@arrl.net) or 573-221-2429.

The 2010 test fee will be unchanged at \$15.00. It goes to ARRL/VEC. Bring a photo ID (or two non-photo ID's); if currently licensed, bring the original and a photocopy of your valid FCC license; and if you are claiming credit for successful completion of an exam, bring the original and photocopy of any applicable CSCE's.

---

  
**HANNIBAL AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**  
**MINUTES**



Minutes of the meeting recorded by:  
 Fred-KBØWIL...HARC Secretary...

Date: November 11th, 2009 Veterans Day  
 Location: Beth Haven Nursing Home 2500 Pleasant St. Hannibal, Mo.

Meeting called to order by: Howie-KØDFW

Previous meeting minutes: October 14th, 2009

Motion to approve: J.D.-WØAJD  
 Seconded by: Kermit-KØZXQ

**TREASURERS REPORT:** Tony-WØPGL

Cash-\$741.05 CD-\$1,282.05 Total-\$2,023.10

Motion to approve: Cliff-KØCA

Seconded by: Luan-KC9PGS

**Repeater report:** Fred-KBØWIL

The repeaters are working and sounding great, no problems.

**HARC Officer Nominations**

We took nominations tonight for Officers In 2010.

**CURRENT OFFICERS:**

President: Howie-KØDFW,  
Vice President J.D.-WØAJD,  
Treasurer Tony-WØPGL,  
Secretary Fred-KBØWIL  
Newsletter Editor Bonnie-WBØWAP

**MEMBERS NOMINATED:**

President - Howie - KDØDFW  
Vice President – Luan - KC9PGS  
Treasurer – Mel - KC0HYY, Tony-WØPGL,  
Secretary – Fred - KBØWIL,  
Newsletter Editor - Bonnie-WBØWAP.

We will take final nominations at the meeting in December, and then vote, If you wish to be an officer, then plan on attending and put your name in the hat.

**HARC 2009 MEMBER OF THE YEAR**

We took nominations tonight for the HARC member of the year. We had two members nominated: Cliff-KØCA, and Carol-WA9EFV. They both have done several things for the club over the years. We will take final nominations at the December meeting, and then vote. The club will present the award at the February 6th, 2010 supper/get together.

Motion to approve: Bonnie-WBØWAP

Seconded by: Don-KCØRML

Fred-KBØWIL is responsible for taking care of the award purchase and layout.

**December 2009 meeting:**

We decided to have our annual carry in of snacks, at our club meeting on December 9th, 2009.

**February 2010 HARC Supper: Sat. Feb 6th, 2010**

We voted to have the clubs annual supper/get together on

**February 6th, 2010**

**Saturday, at 6:00 PM,**

**Golden Corral Restaurant, Hannibal, Mo.**

Motion to approve: Bonnie-WBØWAP

Seconded by: Luan-KC9PGS

It will be for club members, and anyone who is interested in the HARC Club activities, and just enjoying some time with other HAMS. Everyone is responsible for paying for their own meal.

Same room reserved as previously, non-smoking section, up front.

Fred-KBØWIL will take care of the reservation, for the room.

**Breakfast Club Picnic:**

The BC picnic will be on July 16, 17, and 18th, 2010. It will be here in Hannibal Mo.

Contact Carol-WA9EFV or Tony-WØPGL if your interested in attending or helping with the activities. More information will be forthcoming in future newsletters.

**50/50 Winner:**

Luan-KC9PGS was the winner tonight. Congratulations again!! Two meetings in a row. Congratulations to Luan-KC9PGS for now belonging to the Breakfast Club.

**Note:** Mike -NA9Q will be doing the DX column, in the club newsletter starting in January 2010. The club would like to thank Cliff-KØCA for doing the DX column for the past eleven years, he always did an excellent job and made it interesting.

Number of members present: 14

Number of guests: 2

Total in attendance: 16

**HARC members:** Dues are now due for 2010 year. Please pay Tony-WØPGL. You can pay him at the next meeting, or by sending them in to the club address. The membership dues are \$20.00 annually, plus an additional \$5.00 for each family member. Thanks.

Hannibal Amateur Radio Club  
P.O. Box 1522  
Hannibal, Mo. 63401

Fred KBØWIL HARC-Secretary E:-)



**FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK**  
**DECEMBER 2009**  
**BY HOWARD BARNES K0DFW**



Guess what? They have Christmas commercials

on, and it is two weeks to Thanksgiving. Man, they must really want to make the money this year! Well for me it is the day before Missouri gun season for deer, and that means for the next 2 weeks I will be glued to the shop, answering phones, and hopefully skinning deer heads, and a lot of them to make my bankers happy. Well, I will tell you one thing though, since the last month's letter that I wrote for this newsletter, is that I finally got my good weekend of weather, and got my 50 ft. lift rented and away I went up my tower. I lowered my cushcraft A-3 yagi to the top of the pipe coming out of my tower, and I put a Cushcraft 6 meter beam on top. I got all the connections tightened up, and put all new coax on the A-3 Cushcraft so that I can run full legal power on it from my amplifier. I put a pulley system on it, like a flag pole, so that I can put a Buckmaster wire antenna up on it when I get my money saved up. Now all that I have to do is get some time to get the station on the air. Anyway, I am set for cold weather, as much as I hate it.

**WOW! Getting closer to heaven!**





JUST A HANGIN!



GETTIN IT DONE!

The meeting we had the other night was well attended, with talk about electing officers, and Amateur of the year award. If you want to make any nominations next month, you had better show up at the meeting next month.

At the next December meeting we will bring snacks to celebrate the Christmas season. There are rumors that Tony is going to bring his guitar and play and sing for the entertainment, but that was only a rumor. Anyway if anyone has a small program that they would like to do that night we could work it in. We will be electing officers for the 2010 year, and voting on the Amateur of the Year Award.

I don't have a lot to talk about on this article other than the fact that DX has been hot especially to the Pacific and over into China and Asia. A lot of rare islands have been on, and if you are In need come on and work some while the band is hot.

Let's all take a minute and give a little prayer for the families of the brave soldiers that died at muslin terrorist hands. I know this is hard times for the kids and families and parents for their lost, and my heart goes out to them. May God hand out swift justice on their behalf, and let's not forget our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan and say a prayer daily on their behalf. My wife was talking to one of the fathers of a soldier out of our church, and they are in the high mountains experiencing some very cold weather. I cannot say enough how proud I am of our troops and if you can support one of the groups who send items over to our troops through a church or organization. I made a donation the other day thru the USO which is a very good organization. It sure means a lot, and more than most people realize when you write a note, or walk up, to a soldier on the street, and give him or her, a pat on the back, and say how much you appreciate their efforts. They're a long way from home and their families thru the holidays. So everyone take care, and I will see you "on the bands".

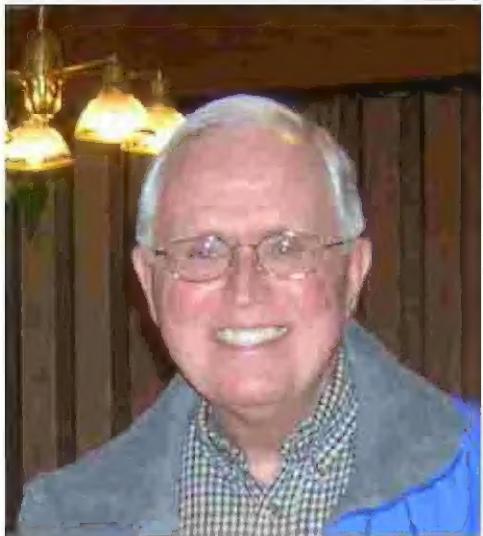
73s Howard K0DFW

---



## DX Horizons December 2009

by Cliff Ahrens K0CA



The month of November brought improved low band and 160 meters top band conditions. Hopefully that trend will continue. And the TX3A Dxpedition from Chesterfield Islands continues into early December. They are concentrating on the low bands. For more information and their online log, check out <http://tx3a.com/>. Now here's some information about upcoming DX in December.

**5R MADAGASCAR** – Look for Eric, F6ICX, signing 5R8IC until December 15th. Activity will be on 80-10 meters. QSL via home call.

**A3 TONGA** - Dave Lee, W6ZL/A35KL, should be active from Tonga for most of December.

**E4 PALESTINE** – Antonio, EA5RM, has obtained a license and callsign of E4X for a 2010 Dxpedition to Palestine “coming soon.” No dates have been given, but keep an eye on their web page for further details: <http://www.dxfriends.com/e4x/index.php>.

**PACIFIC DXPEDITION/TOUR** - Andrea IK1PMR, Claudia K2LEO/PA3LEO, Wil PA0BWL, Joe AA4NN, Franz OE2SNL, and Gerhard plan to operate from several Pacific locations through

December 18th. The December portion of the schedule is:

**New Zealand (ZL)** - December 2-5th. Callsigns: ZL/IK1PMR, ZL/PA3LEO, ZL/PA0BWL, ZL/OE2SNL, ZL/DJ5IW and ZL/DJ7JC.

**South Cook Islands (E5)** - December 5-12th; Callsigns: E51PMR, E51LEO, E51BWL, E51SNL, E51XIW and E51NAA.

**Singapore (9V)** - December 15-17th; Callsigns: 9V1/IK1PMR, 9V1/PA3LEO, 9V1/PA0BWL and 9V1/DJ7JC.

My computer tip of the month brings news of an exciting web site called Club Log ([www.clublog.org](http://www.clublog.org)). It's a free site where users all over the world can upload their logs in ADIF format. Some of Club Log's many features include: search the DX Cluster for spots of DXCC entities you have not worked; check whether you are in the log of DXpeditions which have uploaded their logs; check your DX QSOs to help determine which DXCC entity the callsign is from, based on rules and exceptions which are being updated as thousands of logs are submitted; most-wanted lists; DXCC analysis; and listing of DXCC Leagues of band countries worked by users. With nearly 2000 users and over 14 million log entries, Club Log is an excellent resource for DXers.

Change is coming in January to this DX column. After eleven years of writing the monthly DX Horizons column (my first was in January, 1999), I'll be turning over the reins to a well-known local DXer, Mike Nowack, NA9Q. Mike is also active in the Great River DX group and the Eastern Iowa DX Association. I'm thrilled that Mike has agreed to step in and continue this monthly feature.

That's it for this month. Thanks to The Daily DX and Ohio Penn DX Bulletin for some of the information in this column. Don't forget to check the latest DX news in the daily and weekly DX bulletins.

73 and good DX, Cliff K0CA

---

**HAM OF THE MONTH**  
**Carol Bartlett WA9EFV**  
**Written by LUAN, KC9PGS**



Carol entered this world kicking. Born a twin, he had to kick his brother out in order to make his debut. He was raised in Griggsville, IL where he lived until about the age of 20. While attending Griggsville High School, he was bitten by the HAM bug. A friend's father was a Ham radio operator and he would often sit up all night listening to him talk with people all over the world. He graduated from Griggsville High school in 1950 and went to work for the Wabash Railroad. He also worked for Trio Manufacturing making television antennas.

In 1953 he was drafted into the Army and sent to radio school. Before leaving for the service, he married his sweetheart Nancy Ward. Once he graduated from radio school, he was dispatched to Fairbanks, Alaska. Although he was in the Army, he was attached to the Air Force. For several weeks, he was isolated while officials investigated his security clearance. Nancy tells the story about a "magazine salesman" coming to the house and asking all kinds of questions about Carol. Once his background was cleared, he operated a shortwave radio for the North American Defense Command. His role was to communicate with aircraft and missile and gun sights. He spent three very cold winters there and was discharged on March 31, 1955.

He returned home and they eventually settled in Barry. In 1956 he continued his radio profession at Motorola in Quincy. He was hired as an electronics technical supervisor where he continued his education and earned a diploma in Applied Electronics and several certificates from Motorola's technical school.

While his career included radio experience he hadn't forgotten the joy of amateur radio. In 1957 he went to Kansas City, MO and took his General class license. (He passed on his first try with a 100%. A trait he failed to pass along to his writer.) He had to wait 6 weeks before receiving his license and call sign. His first ham shack included a Globe King 500, a National NC303 receiver, and several home brewed rigs. (He built an 8000 watt Class C amplifier, which he only ran 2000 watts.) He was also a Citizen's Band pioneer. He obtained the first CB license in the area and crafted his own CB radio. However, this was a very lonely hobby since no one else had a license and he had no one to talk to.

In September 1973 they had a fire in their home and lost almost everything. Friends and neighbors threw tarps over his radio equipment trying to protect it from water damage. Miraculously, his Galaxy GT 550, Clegg 22er, and Globe King 500 survived. But his log documenting his contact with every 3077 county in the US was a total lost. He had completed the quest and his log was finalized and ready to be mailed. He never attempted this incredible feat again.

During the Vietnam War Carol provided phone patches all over the country for service personnel.

*One of amateur radios most interesting projects is also one of its best kept secrets. It's a story of the successful Vietnam wartime partnership between the military and the countries radio amateurs.*

For more than fifteen years, Carol has been an active participant in the Eye Bank Net. He has logged 3425 evening check-ins with W0EYE.

*W0EYE is the official call sign of the Eye Bank Net, formally the Eye Emergency Net. The net was organized in 1962 at Iowa City*

*for the purpose of locating and arranging for the distribution of eye tissue to be used in sight saving emergency corneal transplant operations. During that time they transferred 11,066 eyes. They continue to meet out of fellowship and to help keep the tradition of Amateur Radio in public service alive. All licensed Hams are welcome to check in and join them daily at 3.970 Mhz at 0045 UTC.*

His HAM service doesn't stop there. He has assisted with emergency communications after hurricanes, tornadoes and floods. He vividly remembers spending over 14 long hours after the Lubbock, Texas F5 tornado on May 11, 1970. It was one of the worst tornadoes in Texas history.

In the 1960s Carol administered conditional license tests for people who lived too far from the FCC testing sites. Some of our HAM friends received their test from him. He has also been a mentor and role model encouraging new HAMs to the hobby. Most recently, Jessica Pederson (KB9ZFJ), John Potter (KC9MMO) and Luan Sandberg (KC9PGS) all became licensed radio operators under the guidance of Carol.

Today, Carol is the secretary of the Breakfast Club, and sponsor of the annual Redneck Retreat picnic. His ham shack includes a Yaesu FT 950, an Ameritron 811 amplifier, and an ICOM 2100 2 meter rig. He has a 7 Band inverted V antenna that towers 48 feet into the air. He also a Yaesu FT 100 and an ICOM 2 meter radio in his vehicles. A true ham has the instincts of a pack rat. No doubt you know that a pack rat collects objects with which to feather his nest. Carol also collects objects to feather his shack such as certificates, plaques, transistors, resistors, spare parts and equipment - and the list is endless. If you've ever been to the Redneck Retreat, you understand why he has his own shed "The Depot" in which to store the overflow of his "collection".

"It's a great hobby. Enjoy it!"

### **Western Illinois Amateur Radio Club Amateur Radio License Class Scheduled for January 2010**

The Western Illinois Amateur Radio Club will be holding a license class on Tuesday evenings from 7 to 9 PM beginning January 5, 2010. There will be 10 sessions including the official exam which is scheduled for Tuesday, March 9<sup>th</sup>. The club is planning two separate classes. The first is the entry level leading to the Technician license and the second is an upgrade class leading to the General or Extra license. Both classes will be held simultaneously at the consulting engineering firm of Poepping Stone Bach Assoc (PSBA) which is located at 100 S. 54<sup>th</sup> St. in Quincy about ½ mile south of Home Depot.

The class leading to the Technician license will consist of lecture and demonstrations as well as Q&A. The text is "The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual 1<sup>st</sup> Edition, 3<sup>rd</sup> Printing." A copy of this book will be available at the first session or ahead of time at the special price of \$20. Call Todd, AB9QW, at 217-593-7490 or email at [toddc@psba.com](mailto:toddc@psba.com) to reserve a copy.

The class leading to the General or Extra license will be in Q&A format. Using the available high speed internet connection, it will be possible to try sample tests on-line using the instructor's laptop computer. The text for the General License is: "The ARRL General Class License Manual for Ham Radio, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition." For the Extra License, the text is: "The ARRL Extra Class License Manual for Ham Radio, 9<sup>th</sup> Edition. The special price for either manual is \$20. Contact Todd, AB9QW, to reserve a copy.

All of those with interest from the Hannibal area are invited to attend.

HARC members are asked to mention the course to friends and neighbors. A flyer describing the course and providing a map is available at the WIARC website: go to [www.w9awe.org](http://www.w9awe.org). At the home page, click on "Introductory License Classes Begin January 5<sup>th</sup>...."

---



---



## THANKS CLIFF, K0CA AND WELCOME MIKE, NA9Q

We want to thank Cliff for doing the DX section of the HARC newsletter for so many years. It has been of great interest to the many HAMS who love to DX. The article has been interesting and very informative. We welcome Mike and know that he will do a great job, and look forward to his participation, and we thank him for volunteering to do the DX article. Be sure to see the new 2010 edition.

---

### **DON'T FORGET THE FREEDOMS WE HAVE**

Back in September of 2005, on the first day of school, Martha Cothren, a social studies school teacher at Robinson High School in Little Rock, did something not to be forgotten. On the first day of school, with the permission of the school superintendent, the principal and the building supervisor, she removed all of the desks out of her classroom.

When the first period kids entered the room they discovered that there were no desks.

'Ms. Cothren, where're our desks?'

She replied, 'You can't have a desk until you tell me how you earn the right to sit at a desk.'

They thought, 'Well, maybe it's our grades.'

'No,' she said.

'Maybe it's our behavior.'

She told them, 'No, it's not even your behavior.'

And so, they came and went, the first period, second period, third period. Still, no desks in the classroom.

By early afternoon television news crews had started gathering in Ms. Cothren's classroom to report about this crazy teacher who had taken all the desks out of her room.

The final period of the day came and as the puzzled students found seats on the floor of the deskless classroom, Martha Cothren said, 'Throughout the day no one has been able to tell me just what he/she has done to earn the right to sit at the desks that are ordinarily found in this classroom. Now, I am going to tell you.'

At this point, Martha Cothren went over to the door of her classroom and opened it

Twenty-seven (27) U.S. Veterans, all in uniforms, walked into that classroom, each one carrying a school desk. The Vets began placing the school desks in rows, and then they would walk over and stand alongside the wall. By the time the last soldier had set the final desk in place those kids started to understand, perhaps for the first time in their lives, just how the right to sit at those desks had been earned..

Martha said, 'You didn't earn the right to sit at these desks. These heroes did it for you. They placed the desks here for you. Now, it's up to you to sit in them. It is your responsibility to learn, to be good students, to be good citizens. They paid the price so that you could have the freedom to get an education. Don't ever forget it.'

By the way, this is believed to be a true story.

Don't forget that the freedoms we have in this great country were earned by U. S. Veterans. And don't forget those who are still fighting yet today to ensure that those rights continue to be protected for all the students yet to come. God bless you....and *God bless America!*



Be sure to attend the December meeting. It will be a good one. We are officially voting in our officers for the upcoming year, and the 'Member of the Year' person. We need all of your participation, and besides that, we are having a carry-in of Christmas goodies. Not a full meal, just some finger food. Surprise us with your special dish or dessert. YUM, I can't wait! See you there!

73's, Bonnie, WB0WAP



**HANNIBAL AMATEUR RADIO  
WOKEM & W0MTL  
P.O. Box 1522  
Hannibal, Mo 63401-1522  
U.S.A**



Phone: 573-221-2937  
Email: [w0kem@arrl.net](mailto:w0kem@arrl.net)  
Website: <http://www.w0kem.com>

